



# **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

---

**A REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON  
LGBT RIGHTS AND HEALTH IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC:  
INVESTING IN INNOVATION AND ACTION**

---

**SPEAK UP AND BE HEARD!**



### **ARE YOU:**

A citizen of an Asian or Pacific country who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) or other sexual or gender minority?

Have you faced discrimination, stigma, harassment, or bullying because of your sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression (SOGIE)?

Have you encountered hostility because of your SOGIE when seeking housing, when pursuing education, seeking employment or when seeking other professional services and have you spoken out against it or challenged it?

Are you involved in LGBT rights and health activism in your community, organization, school, and/or workplace? Have you been able to bring change and promote innovation through your activism?

Are you an academic or advocate who contributes to protecting and advancing the human rights and health of LGBT people through research and advocacy?

**If you answered yes to any of the above questions, share your experiences with us. Make a submission TODAY!**

Individuals whose submissions are selected will be invited to the Regional Dialogue to be held in **Bangkok, Thailand on 4 - 6 June 2014**

Download the submission form at <http://goo.gl/ini2ZR> and submit by email to [aprc.lgbt@undp.org](mailto:aprc.lgbt@undp.org)



## **What kind of environments do LGBT people in the Asia-Pacific live in?**

Many Asian and Pacific countries lack laws and policies that protect people from discrimination or violence based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression. Furthermore, punitive and restrictive laws and policies that harm LGBT people need to be repealed or modified to remove social stigma, discrimination and violence, and to increase access to legal, social and health services. This call was reconfirmed on International Human Rights Day (2012) when UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon remarked, “These laws must go. We must replace them with laws that provide adequate protection against discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.”

LGBT people often experience frequent violations of their rights, in many cases perpetrated by state actors, their communities, and family members. Communities of LGBT people in the Asia-Pacific region have been mobilizing for rights and health with some tremendous advances over the past 20 years. Hundreds of community-led organizations and cross-border networks dedicated to LGBT rights and health have been formed and legally registered.



## **Why a Regional Dialogue?**

In the last 20 years of activism in the Asia-Pacific region, an increasing amount of information has been gathered about the conditions that LGBT people live in and LGBT organizations operate in. This wealth of available information and analysis needs to be reviewed and documented. The regional dialogue will also provide an opportunity to hear about individual lived experiences, the work of LGBT organizations, and the successes that have been achieved. We hope to gain an in-depth overview of the situation facing LGBT people from this process.

This regional dialogue will bring together community leaders and activists, Asia-Pacific government experts, development partners, national human rights institutions, and private sector representatives. They will collectively reflect on advances in promoting and protecting the human rights of LGBT people and examine opportunities and challenges in the areas of legal reform, social norms, health, social media, education, employment, and other relevant areas. We wish to hear directly from leading activists, academics, advocates, and researchers who have been working to protect and advance the rights of LGBT people throughout the region.



## Why is your submission important?

As people on the frontlines working for LGBT rights and health issues in the Asia-Pacific, your experiences and knowledge will shape the thinking and planning for the way forward for LGBT rights and health programming in the region in the coming decades. Invited government experts and representatives from development partners and the private sector will hear about your lived experiences and about your personal struggles and victories to protect and advance the human rights of a highly marginalized group.

By fostering a constructive dialogue and networking opportunity among multiple actors – LGBT civil society, government experts, development partners, donors, judicial officials and lawyers, human rights institutions, the private sector and health care providers and advocates – on the human rights and health of LGBT people in the Asia-Pacific region and their social and economic development, the consultation will shape LGBT rights and health work in the region for the future.



## What is 'Being LGBT in Asia'?

*"Being LGBT in Asia: A Participatory Review and Analysis of the Legal and Social Environment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Civil Society"* is a joint initiative launched on Human Rights Day 2012 (December 10) by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United States Agency for International Development, Regional Mission for Asia (USAID RDMA), together with grassroots LGBT organizations and community leaders, to understand the challenges faced by LGBT people in Asia.

'Being LGBT in Asia' aims to build a knowledge baseline of the legal, social, political and institutional environments in which LGBT rights advocates and organizations operate at the country level, while developing an understanding for the capacity of LGBT rights advocates to engage in policy dialogue and community mobilization.

## WHAT TO SUBMIT

We want to hear about your experiences and knowledge on LGBT rights and health issues as individuals and professionals and not as representatives of an organization or a network.

### **More about who we are looking for:**

You are a self-identified member of a SOGIE category, including but not limited to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (male to female and female to male), i.e. *bakla, fa'afafine, hijra, katoey, kothi, meti, or waria*. You are Asian or a Pacific Islander and live in your own country or in another country in the region. You are open about your identity and may have faced stigma, discrimination, harassment, and violence, or may have witnessed companions been subject to any of these because of who they are. Nevertheless, you will have stories of courage and grit on how you have overcome adversity and become a force for the betterment of your fellow LGBT people.

Share your experience of what kind of abusive or harmful behavior you have been subject to because of your SOGIE status. We want to hear about your lived experiences – what you have faced and how you dealt with it. Your stories of courage and perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds can be an inspiration for many others. If you are an academic, researcher, human rights advocate, or private sector executive working for the rights and health of LGBT people, tell us about the work you do, how you do it, and why you do it.

Individual entries will be selected by a panel of LGBT experts and leaders through a process that is fair, anonymous, and transparent.

## HOW TO SUBMIT

### Languages

Submissions are welcome in Bengali, Chinese, English, Hindi, Indonesian, Nepali, Sinhalese, Tamil, Thai, or Vietnamese.

### Format

All submissions should be in writing and should not exceed 800 words in the body of the submission. Submissions should be typed into the accompanying submission form Word document and must be emailed to [aprc.lgbt@undp.org](mailto:aprc.lgbt@undp.org) with subject line "Submission for LGBT regional dialogue in Bangkok, June 2014."

### Confidentiality

Submissions can be of two types, public or confidential. The submission should clearly indicate in the designated box if you wish your submission to remain confidential. The convening organizations will make every effort to ensure that confidential submissions remain as such.

### Deadline

All submissions should be made by 10 a.m. Thai time on Monday, 24 February 2014. Note that only one submission per person will be allowed.



The regional dialogue will be co-convened by the the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).



For more information about 'Being LGBT in Asia' or this Call for Abstracts please enquire to or visit:

[aprc.lgbt@undp.org](mailto:aprc.lgbt@undp.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/lgbtinasia>  
<https://www.twitter.com/beinglgbtinasia>